

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PANEL

## ACTION

A meeting of the Professional Standards Panel was held on Wednesday 29 July 2009 in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT: Mr Ted Cox JP (Chair), Cllr Mary Lanigan (Vice Chair), Cllr Caroline Barker, Mr Aslam Hanif, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Mr Peter Hadfield, Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE.

OFFICIALS: T/Supt Darren Best, DCC Bonnard and Mrs Joanne Monkman, Inspector Ian Kelly and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC)  
Mrs Jayne Harpe (CE)

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: Cllr Victor Tumilty.

### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

### DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

### OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grievance Procedure was being looked at in light of a recent Employment Tribunal result. A reviewed report would be submitted to this Panel following a 28 Day Consultation Phase of the new procedure.

Complaints Against Police – Diversity Issues - Members Briefing would be arranged.

Kate  
Rowntree

Deliberate Damage Report – Members to discuss whether all statistical information would be required in future reports.

### CIVIL CLAIM STATISTICS

The Legal Advisor presented the Civil Claim Statistics for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Panel was informed of the number and types of civil claims against the Force received during that period, the amount paid out for those claims finalised during the period and the amount recovered. The report also detailed a comparison between the Basic Command Units.

### ORDERED that:

1. Members noted the number of claims received remained the same as the number of claims received in the same period last year. Motor liability was the leading category.
2. There had been a 54% decrease in the number of claims finalised when compared with the same period last year.

3. 25% of finalised cases during the period were successfully defended which was to be compared with 23% successfully defended during the same period last year.
4. The 9 cases settled during the period cost the Force £30,854. This was to be compared with the 20 cases settled during the same period last year at a cost of £144,824.
5. Middlesbrough remained the area with most claims.
6. The contents of the report be noted.

Whilst Legal Services had no control over the number of claims received, feedback was provided on a case by case basis to ensure assistance was given to Basic Command Units in managing risks.

### **COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE**

The Head of Professional Standards Department presented the Complaints Against Police for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009. The Quarterly Progress Report on Complaint Issues for Cleveland Police for the period January to March 2009 was attached to the report.

There had been a 7% increase in the number of cases recorded during that period (114 to 122), with a 11% decrease in the number of complaints (up from 197 to 176).

Complaints of "other neglect/failure in duty" and "Incivility" continued to outnumber those of "Assault" allegations, 37 and 36 complaints respectively, compared to 27 in the "Assault" categories.

46% (59) of completed complaints had been locally resolved. During that period 73% (43) of locally resolved complaints had been by District and 27% (16) by the Professional Standards Department.

A guidance document relating to Pledge 10 – matters of dissatisfaction is to be introduced during September. An update to this Panel in January 2010.

DCC

92 letters of appreciation had been received. Only letters of appreciation were recorded but other expressions were not. This was a very bureaucratic process and would be looked at.

**ORDERED** that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.

### **DELIBERATE DAMAGE STATISTICS**

The Head of Professional Standards Department informed Members of the cost to the Force of deliberate damage by way of forced entry into premises for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and of the operational results achieved through

such forced entry and other premises searches.

Members were informed that the Force had paid out £8,447 in compensation for acts of deliberate damage, this compared to £8,599 paid out in the same period during the previous year. Whilst 2882 searches were conducted, only 257 (8.92%) resulted in deliberate damage compared to 7.9% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs seized totaled £940,772 and this compared to £1,079,186 seized during the same period in 2008.

The revised report was brought to the meeting and Members were asked their opinions. There were mixed feelings as to the exclusion of the statistical data and the Deputy Chief Constable would see what value the information added elsewhere.

DCC

**ORDERED** that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The operational benefits accruing to the Force in terms of property, drugs and cash seized, outweigh the cost of the damage claims be noted.

#### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**ORDERED** that pursuant to the local Government Act 1972, excluding the press and public from the meeting under Paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

#### **CASES FROM THE COMPLAINTS REGISTER**

Members of the Complaints Panel were shown the cases from the Complaints Register which had previously been selected by the Panel Chair.